

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASUQ LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: ANTI-TURKISH DEMONSTRATION IN LIMASSOL

1. APRIL 26 APPROXIMATELY 250 (NEWSPAPERS PUT FIGURE AT 500) GREEK CYPRIOT YOUTHS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST TURKEY AND TURK CYPRIOTS IN LIMASSOL. ACCORDING UNFICYP, CYPOL PREVENTED DEMONSTRATION FROM APPROACHING TURKISH SECTOR, DIVERTING IT OUTSIDE CITY CENTER. SMALL NUMBER YOUTHS LATER RETURNED TO SHOUT SLOGANS SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM TURKISH AREA. UNFICYP NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED.

2. DEMONSTRATION APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY AEGEAN CONTROVERSY AND NOT RPT NOT CONNECTED WITH LOCAL EVENTS. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS AND RADIO HAS REACTED STRONGLY, CITING DEMONSTRATORS' SLOGANS OF "DEATH TO TURKS",
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"NO ROOM FOR TURKS IN CYPRUS", ANDT"ISTANBUL, IZMIR,

THRACE, AND CYPRUS--ALL GREEK."

3. ONLY GREEK CYPRIOT PAPER TO DENOUNCE DEMONSTRATION WAS LYSSARIDES' "TA NEA"8 MOST PAPERS HAVE EITHER IGNORED EVENT ENTIRELY (COURSE FOLLOWED BY GOVT C.B.C.) OR CARRIED BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, PRO EOKA-B "ETHNIKI" AND RIGHT-WING "SYNAGERMOS" ENDORSED DEMONSTRATION, WITH FORMER CASTIGATING COMMUNISTS FOR THEIR NON-PARTICIPATION AND LATTER PRAISING THEM FOR JOINING NATIONALIST FRONT.

4. COMMENT: THUS FAR UNCLEAR WHO ORGANIZED EVENT OR WHETHER IT LIKELY BE REPEATED. DEMONSTRATION HAD POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS VILENCE IF YOUTHS HAD BEEN ALLOWED APPROACH TURKISH AREA. TMT WAS ON ALERT. FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, CYPOL ACTED IMPECCABLY, BUT STUDENTS' AND PRESS BEHAVIOR ARE WARNINGS BOTH AS TO DEPTH OF GREEK/TURKISH FEELINGS AND UNWILLINGNESS OF LEADERSHIP TO TAKE UNEQUIVOCAL STAND AGAINST "NATIONALISTIC" BEHAVIOR.
GRANT

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Message Attributes

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